

To the Hon. the General Assembly
of the State of North Carolina

The Petition of Henry Patterson a free
man of color most humbly shews that he has
acquired by purchase the ownership of his
wife Emanuel & prays ~~that~~ your Honor or
the Body to emancipate & make her a free
woman. — Your petitioner was born a free
man & he & his said wife have been brought
up in the City of Raleigh and as to character
for industry, quietness & good order in general
he appeals for himself & his wife to all the res-
pectable inhabitants of this City — He is
the owner of property both real & personal
in this place, is a bricklayer & plasterer
by trade, fully attached to the community
in which he resides & doth not wish to leave the
State — He has been married some time to
his wife, has no child nor the prospect of any
issue — He has taken considerable concern-
ing his condition & is advised that if he
were to die without a will his Brothers &
Sisters would become the Owners of his wife
& she might be sold a Slave for life for their
debts — That if he were to make a will
he cannot liberate her, nor make any other
disposition of her according to law, which
would give her the use & enjoyment of
herself as a free woman — To your
Hon: Body alone can he look for help
& redress; & knowing fully that the
prayer of the humblest individual will if
properly presented be, by your Hon: Body,
heard & duly answered he humbly refers
his case to your kind consideration —

I am in duty bound with
most respect

Henry Patterson